



Egremont News

Issue 114

October 2020

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a quarterly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. **If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall - tegrement@egremont-ma.gov or 413-528-0182.**

Selectboard:

Special Town Meeting:

A Special Town is being held on October 13 at 5pm at French Park to vote on some issues that were left off of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting warrant in order to shorten the meeting.

Articles 1 and 2: Are two versions of an Accessory Dwelling Unit bylaw. One is written by the Planning Board. The other was submitted for the Annual Town Meeting by citizen petition. The Board anticipates a new version of the ADU from the Planning Board that will be a combination of the Planning Board version and the petitioned version.

Article 3: \$8,800 to cover projected overdraft in Transfer Station Expenses.

Article 4: \$2,500 to cover the costs of the Broadband emergency backup contract

Article 5: \$7,000 to begin the planning and engineering for a new Buildings and Grounds shop

Article 6: \$8,250 to remove dangerous trees threatening town buildings

Article 7: \$7,500 for costs associated with public transportation for eligible residents

Article 8: Adopt a 6% optional excise tax on short-term rentals plus 3% impact fee.

Article 9: Raise \$5,760 to hire a COVID-19 Compliance Officer.

Attendees will have the option to sit on the lawn as they did during the Annual Town Meeting in May or if the weather is cold to sit in their vehicles and listen via transmission over the car radio. All participants will have an equal opportunity to speak and all votes will be appropriately counted.

Halloween:

The Town will host a Halloween event at French Park on October 31 for Egremont children. Though the Board hasn't voted yet to not have trick or treat, many towns are trending that way. The event will begin at 6pm. Storytellers will be telling scary stories around a bonfire. There will be a haunted walk through the woods, pumpkin carving contest (bring the pumpkin you carved at home), costume contest and goodies. The event will be split into time periods for different age groups to avoid increasing the gathering limits. Please note that under CDC guidelines, most Halloween masks are not protective so your costume must include the a protective mask without a Halloween mask.

COVID-19:

The COVID-19 pandemic is still very much in the forefront of all our lives. It's become routine now to wear a mask and to social distance. Many are doing their part to stop the spread. We implore you all to do so. The Town Hall continues to remain closed to the general public with most interactions taking place outside at the picnic table. This will clearly have to come to end soon and we will likely transition to inside interactions by appointment only.

Town functions have continued with all Town Board/Committee meetings taking place via zoom. All meetings are posted on the Town's web page, at town hall on both outdoor bulletin boards and at both post offices with the zoom link information.

We welcome your attendance at our zoom meetings, but please if your technology allows we would encourage you to include your name as our minutes have to include those in attendance. All minutes are posted on the town's web page as well so you can keep up to date on town happenings without attending meetings.

When the pandemic hit, Egremont had an immediate influx of new residents. Some had been Egremont second home owners and some were new renters. The number of short-term rentals in Egremont sky rocketed from less than 10 to over 40 since March of this year. That means more people are using town services. Not only has Town Hall been extremely busy with email and phone requests, but our Transfer Station has seen record tonnage in all areas. We ask for your patience while we adjust to this increased number of residents and requests for attention. Staffing levels remain the same which means you might not get the immediate service you were used to getting.

Transportation:

Due to the shutdown of the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporations (SBETC) service during the height of the Pandemic the Town, jointly with the Town of Alford, obtained a grant to pay for taxi service for eligible individuals to necessary errands and appointments. SBETC has now announced that it is closing permanently leaving the whole Southern Berkshire area without any transportation for its vulnerable populations. Egremont Town Officials have applied for a grant to pay for a handicapped accessible van to provide this service to its vulnerable population.

Vulnerable populations are those without access to private transportation, those without driver's licenses, medical patients, disabled individuals and seniors.

There will be additional costs, such as insurance, maintenance and the drivers. The Town is open to sharing this service, and its costs, with our neighbors and will follow up on that if the grant is awarded.

Personnel Director:

The Board is please to announce that Cara Becker has been appointed as the new Personnel Director. Cara will continue to be the administrative assistant at the Great Barrington PD. Welcome Cara.

ECO-TIP

Buying your clothes at a thrift shop reduces the environmental impact of the fashion industry (which is huge).

French Park:

Our lovely park, French Park, has also seen a vast increase in usage not only by town residents but residents from the surrounding area. The Town has carefully monitored all areas of the park and most people are being respectful and following posted protocols. The main area of concern is with dogs - not only are people being disrespectful at the closed dog park but there have multiple complaints of dogs being allowed to roam off leash in the park and on the trails. There is a leash law that the Board has asked the Dog Officer to actively enforce. Please, for the safety of all, keep your dog on leash while in the park and on the trails.

The Dog Park remains closed because of issues of disrespect and failure to follow protocols. We sadly report that garbage has been in the locked dog yards, and someone tied baskets to the fence and they were filled with dog waste. These are some of the reasons the Dog Park remains closed.

The Basketball Court at the park has been undergoing a facelift. Due to the unexpected cold nights that came very quickly, work has had to be halted until next year.

All other venues at the park remain open with restrictions on the number of people in gatherings, and protocols including the wearing of masks and social distancing posted throughout. Please read the signs so that all can enjoy the park to its fullest while staying safe.

The bathroom facilities at the Park will close soon - no later than October 15. We try very hard to keep them open as long as possible but the facility is not winterized. The park itself will remain open for your enjoyment.

Very soon in the upper field, near the Dog Park, a crew will be installing a Pollinator Friendly Garden using all native plants and shrubs. A pathway to the garden is also being installed that will connect with the trail that goes into the woods below the Dog Park. The project will also include removal of part of the area's invasives.

Meet your town employees:

Officer Matthew A. O'Sullivan joined the Egremont Police department in May of 2019 as a full-time officer.

Officer O'Sullivan grew up in a small town located in Central Massachusetts. Growing up he studied the martial arts which instilled a sense of responsibility, discipline and community in him.

After doing an internship with a local police department, Officer O'Sullivan attended the police academy in 2011, graduating as the youngest in his class. Since his graduation he has had an opportunity to work at both municipal and campus police departments allowing him to get experience in different types of policing.

As a member of the Egremont Police department, Officer O'Sullivan is passionate about community relations, traffic enforcement and OUI enforcement.

Off duty he enjoys outdoor activities and traveling. If you see him in town please stop and say hello.

ECO-TIP

Buying toilet paper made from recycled content has a lighter impact on the planet than the fluffier stuff, which is often made of virgin wood pulp from trees.

Board of Health:**COVID-19 Update:**

We are now seven months into the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been relatively lucky here in Egremont and Berkshire County, in terms of confirmed cases (seven to date in Egremont) and excessive burdens on our local health systems.

Much of our success has to do with our low population density. Also in our favor is the great job Berkshire Health Systems has done in testing and the tireless work performed by our Public Health Nurses in contact tracing.

Individual actions play a large part in the fight of further spread. Mask wearing protocols are being observed by the vast majority of people now, as is keeping a safe physical distance from those outside of your family "pod". There is a great deal of guidance from both the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Governor Baker's office (www.mass.gov) pertaining to public and private gatherings and sector specific businesses which should be followed by us all. As local schools enter into their hybrid learning models and cooler temperatures force us back indoors, please follow the guidance to curtail the further spread of the virus and keep yourself and our community safe. Until a COVID vaccine is rolled out, we must remain vigilant.

If you or someone you know needs to be tested for COVID, Berkshire Health Systems operates a drive through testing site at 10 Maple Avenue in Great Barrington. Please call this number to schedule an appointment: 865/262-5465

ECO-TIP

Have a retirement account? Tell the managers that you'd like to focus on ESG funds, which consider the environmental, social, and governance policies of the companies.

Council on Aging:

Thinking of all our seniors and hoping you are all well and safe. Remember, your COA is here to assist you.....call us with your concerns, suggestions, questions, problems. We're glad to help you out and talk with you.

First, and most important, get your flu shot... the sooner the better. Contact your doctor's office, CVS pharmacy, Walgreens, or whatever pharmacy you use. Most towns are holding Flu Clinics, as is Egremont. As soon as the Board of Health gives us a date we'll let you know. If you need a ride give us a call.

Speaking of the winter and flu here are some suggestions to be help you be prepared in the event that you are housebound because of weather or Covid-19,,,,,,,,,,,,,

*Keep a 14 day supply of over the counter and prescription meds available

*Have a 14 days supply of non-perishable foods and items with a lengthy expiration date on hand in case you can't get out to shop. Suggested food items to have on hand: Peanut Butter-Whole Wheat Crackers, Nuts and trail mixes, multigrain cereals high in fiber, Granola and power bars, dried fruits, canned tuna, salmon, chicken; canned vegetables (no salt added), canned soups and Chili (low sodium), boxed pasta and sauces, sports drinks such as Gatorade or PowerAde, powered milk, bottled water, frozen dinners. Focus on foods that are high energy and high protein. Look at calories, nutrients and fiber while avoiding high salt and high sugar content foods.

*Check your supply of flashlights and extra batteries

Need a ride to the Polls on Nov. 3rd? Give us a call and we'll be sure you get there. Better yet, vote by Absentee Ballot. Request a ballot in writing from Town Clerk Juliette Haas, P.O.Box 368, South Egremont, NA 01258. You can also "Early Vote". Watch for dates and times for early voting. You would need to come to the Town Hall to do this. Again, if you need a ride give us a call.

If you need a ride for a medical or dentist appointment, to grocery shop, or other essential shopping trips, food or prescription drug deliveries please remember our **Taxi Grant**. Egremont COA has received a grant to pay the costs of these rides. The Grant goes until Dec. 31 and the rides are free. Many of your neighbors have used the taxis and have been very happy with the service. Call Peg Muskrat at 528-0182 x 16 between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays to arrange a ride.



(Picnicking at COA September event-photo credit Peg Muskrat)



(Vocalist Vita Kay and musician Arman Donellan performing at Sept COA picnic at French Park-photo credit Peggy Muskrat)

ECO-TIP

Who knew? Gas stoves are worse for the environment and for health. When you need a new one, consider getting electric.

Conservation Commission:

Besides the routine over the past few months, we have and are dealing with some slightly unique projects. **Wet Meadow Ecosystem Management Plan.** This was a very satisfactory plan, both in terms of the landowners, the Conservation Commission and the State DEP. A brief history. The owners have held the property for about 40 years. It always has contained a stream and some wetlands. Wetlands evolve and under the wetland Notice of Intent (NOI) originally extended and subsequently renewed, as required, the extent of the wetlands changed and could no longer be renewed without significant changes, involving what had become a "wet meadow". The inland freshwater wet meadow is a type of grassland saturated or inundated by water for a significant portion of the growing season. Unlike inland marshes, wet meadows do not contain standing water throughout the entire growing season. The object of the project was to properly manage a 1-acre-plus wet meadow to preserve important plant habitat. Mowing once a year will be allowed in defined areas once a year. Without mowing the area would revert to a "wild" state, which NHESP describes as natural successional growth and undesirable.

House Falling into Karner Brook—Well, Almost. Everyone knows Karner Brook, It's been around a long time. And so has this house—built around 1860

and far enough away from KB until a large tree fell into the brook upstream and diverted the flow, enough so to eat away at the steep bank separating the house from the brook. Unfortunately, given the required work in the brook and on the adjacent slope, it required extensive State involvement, which incurred substantial bureaucratic delays, pushing the project past last summer and requiring interim bank reinforcement over the winter, all of which added to the project cost. Working with an experienced local contractor, the Commission was pleased finally to sign off in September on a significant bank restoration project—one that should protect the bank from any further erosion and thus cause no concern to the owners.

French Park Pollinator Project. As likely more fully described elsewhere in this newsletter, the Agricultural Commission is involved in a significant “Pollinator Project” in Prospect Lake Park west of the Dog Park. The proposed trail, while outside any official wetland boundaries, does involve a small section of wetlands. As any disturbance of these wetland will involve removal of invasives and planting of native wetland pollinator plants, the Commission has endorsed the project, requiring only minimal conditions regarding removal of sod and invasives.

Building in 100-yr. Floodplains. Suddenly this seems to be a thing. Available land’s starting to get a bit tight, we guess. At press time we’re working on one project which is within the 100-yr. floodplain of Karner Brook. And recently we’ve had another query regarding a lot within the FP of Green River. And on 9/15 the Town received the New Massachusetts Model Floodplain Bylaw—a 27-page document which is being digested by all involved town departments. Stay tuned on this one.

Building Permit Signoffs. Working with the Selectboard and Building Inspector, we’ve settled on a streamlined procedure for signing off on Building permits. Basically, we’re only interested in those classified as Residential Dwelling. The ConCom Chair will review the new/pending permit several times a week and sign off on those that the ConCom has no interest in. The owners of those that indicate the possibility of wetlands issues will be contacted for followup. The building department will be updated on the current status.

Conservation Clerk Wanted. The Commission is actively seeking a qualified person to serve in the part-time position of Commission Clerk. Basic requirements are an interest in conservation and proficiency in data inputting and file organization. Primary responsibilities will be converting existing files from paper to digital form and entering all new files in digital format. Competitive pay. Interested parties should contact the Commission at the email address below.

As always, you can find us at concom@egremont-ma.gov if you have any questions. Most inquiries answered within 24-48 hours.

ECO-TIP

Fabrics and the fashion industry have a huge impact on the environment. Take a quiz to measure your fashion footprint: thredup.com/fashionfootprint

Egremont Free Library (EFL):

We’re in month seven of the COVID 19 pandemic and library services are needed more than ever. EFL has registered many new patrons and checked out about 30 percent more library items this summer than last summer at the same time. From March 16-June 1, the library building was closed, but library services continued. Patrons were able to check out items electronically through the Central Western Mass Automated Resource Sharing (CW MARS) system and Boston Public Library’s electronic catalog. However, for many patrons, nothing compares to holding and reading an actual book. There is certainly nothing wrong with Kindles, and electronic tablets etc., but many people prefer physical books. On June 1st, the library opened to “curb side” delivery, which allowed patrons to borrow hard cover books and DVDs again. Since August 24, patrons are welcome to browse in the library one patron at a time. Free masks and hand sanitizer are made available to patrons who wish to come in and browse. Our librarian orders books every few weeks, so there is always an ongoing selection of new books to choose from. Lesliann orders a variety of fiction, non-fiction, children’s, tween and young adult books and DVDs every other week.

Pick-up from the vestibule will continue to be available indefinitely. A table is set up for patrons to pick up reserved books. You may reserve books via the CWMARS system or by contacting Lesliann directly. You may reach Lesliann via email at

egrlibrary@egremont-ma.gov or by calling during library hours: 528-1474. Library hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Books, magazines, puzzles, games and DVDs continue to be available to check out and enjoy. If you have a specific request, please contact Lesliann. Egremont Free Library is part of a system of libraries in Central and Western Massachusetts with NINE million items to choose from. And if it's not in the system, the Massachusetts Library System's mediated library loan program will track down a book anywhere in the world for the cost of delivery. The mediated library loan service is used by a few patrons regularly. Books from world-renowned academic institutions have made their way to our little library in Egremont.

So despite the isolation of physical distancing, library books offer a wonderful way to get lost in stories, learn a new skill, read poetry, learn history... the list goes on. EFL welcomes you to find your next adventure. Don't hesitate to contact Lesliann to register as a patron. If you haven't been to the library in a while, stop by 1 Buttonball Lane to see all that our little library has to offer.

PURCHASE YOUR EGREMONT T-SHIRTS NOW

ADULT AND YOUTH SIZES AVAILABLE

sales@montereytshirts.com

See attached flyer

ECO-TIP

Put your greasy, brown or white **pizza boxes** in the paper-recycling bin! Turn them inside-out to show that the pizza and the liner are gone.

Emergency Management:

If you or someone you know would like to be checked on in an emergency such as severe weather events or power outages, please let us know! You may call or email the Town Hall or the Police Department and we would be happy to check in with you if the need arises. If you would like to change or add your contact information in the Town's Alert System, please let us know the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses at

413-528-0182 ext 17 or email wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov

As the winter season approaches, it is important to be prepared!

Check flashlights and portable radios to ensure that they are working, and you have extra batteries. A radio is an important source of weather and emergency information during a storm.

Ensure that your Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors are working correctly and have fresh batteries. Check your outside fuel exhaust vents, making sure that they are not obstructed by snow or ice. Never use cooking equipment intended for outside use indoors as a heat source or cooking device.

Make sure you always have a well-stocked Winter Home Emergency Supply Kit that includes flashlights, portable radio, extra batteries, a first aid kit, bottled water, non-perishable food and a manual can opener.

Please note that during a power outage, National Grid may not be aware of your individual situation. Make sure they are aware of your loss of power by calling them at 800-322-3223. Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at 413-528-2160.

Fire Department:

From the Fire Chief, October is fire prevention Month. Please make sure your smoke and CO detectors are working correctly and you have changed the batteries. Also make a plan and practice two ways out in case of a fire. The heating season is coming upon on us have your heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected by a professional. Also the EFD has been very busy and we have had trouble finding houses in Egremont due to people not having 911 signs, signs that are obstructed, and signs that are not placed in a good visible spot. This is a law in egremont to have a clearly visible 911 sign and we can fine you, so please check your sign and make sure it's visible. When seconds count we want to know we can find you.

Fire Calls:

<i>Date</i> <i>/Location</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Call #</i> <i>/Type</i>
6/25/2020	6:20 PM	81
Baldwin Hill N/S		Medical
6/27/2020	8:01 AM	82

Bott Hill		Alarm/Smoke	Creamery Rd.		Medical
6/29/2020	4:36 PM	83	7/30/2020	10:25 PM	107
Lakeside Dr.		Medical	Mount Washington		Lost Hiker
7/3/2020	7:38 AM	84	7/31/2020	7:47 AM	108
Main St.		Medical	East St Mt. Washington		Alarm/False
7/3/2020	1:19 PM	85	8/3/2020	12:38 PM	109
Bash Bish Mt. Washington		Rescue/Medical	Bash Bish Mt. Washington		Medical
7/3/2020	6:51 PM	86	8/3/2020	9:49 PM	110
Jug End Rd.		Alarm/False	West Rd. Mt. Washington		MVA
7/4/2020	3:44 PM	87	8/4/2020	3:40 PM	111
Undermountain Rd.		Medical	Baldwin Hill N/S		Alarm/False
7/4/2020	10:25 PM	88	8/4/2020	5:00 PM	112
Egremont Plain Rd.		Alarm/False	Gen. Knox		Wires Down
7/4/2020	23:07 PM	89	8/4/2020	5:09	113
Hillsdale Rd.		Alarm/False	Hillsdale Rd.		Alarm/False
7/5/2020	12:42 PM	90	8/5/2020	10:56 AM	114
Bash Bish Falls Mt. Wash.		Rescue/Medical	Home Rd Sheffield		Structure/Fire
7/6/2020	7:40 AM	91	8/6/2020	7:48 AM	115
Hillsdale Rd.		Medical	Prospect lake Campground		Medical
7/9/2020	4:51 PM	92	8/6/2020	1:39 PM	116
Hillsdale Rd		Medical	Bow Wow Rd.		Wires down
7/11/2020	12:26 AM	93	8/7/2020	8:08 AM	117
Blunt Rd,		Medical	Hillsdale Rd.		Tree/Wires Down
7/11/2020	11:23 PM	94	8/7/2020	10:55 AM	118
Main St.		Medical	Hillsdale Rd.		Medical
7/12/2020	1:12 AM	95	8/10/2020	5:11 PM	119
Creamery Rd.		Medical	Mountain Rd. Mt. Washington		Alarm/False
7/18/2020	12:48 PM	96	8/10/2020	5:44 PM	120
Bash Bish Mt. Washington		Medical	Jug End Rd.		Pole/Wires Down
7/20/2020	3:42 PM	97	8/10/2020	8:56 PM	121
Greenwood Circle		Medical	Pine Crest Hill		Alarm/False
7/21/2020	10:41 AM	98	8/11/2020	4:16 PM	122
Hillsdale Rd.		Alarm/False	Ridge Rd.		Alarm/False
7/21/2020	12:34 PM	99	8/14/2020	8:34 AM	123
Mountain View Rd.		Medical	East St. Mt. Washington		Alarm/False
7/21/2020	8:37 PM	100	8/16/2020	2:40 PM	124
Baldwin Hill N/S		Fire/Vehicle	Bash Bish Falls Mt. Washington		Medical
7/23/2020	11:43 AM	101	8/17/2020	6:06 PM	125
East St Mt. Washington		MVA	Lakeside Dr.		Outside Fire
7/24/2020	12:48 PM	102	8/18/2020	12:19 PM	126
Jug End Rd.		Medical	Sheffield Rd.		Medical
7/24/2020	1:00 PM	103	8/22/2020	9:18 PM	127
Race Brook Trail. Mt. Washington		Rescue/Medical	Adirondack Trail Mt. Washington		Search
7/25/2020	8:09 AM	104	8/23/2020	3:55 AM	128
Standby Hillsdale FD Rt.22 NY		Structure Fire	Taconic Ln.		Alarm/False
7/26/2020	7:14 PM	105	8/23/2020	5:25 PM	129
Egremont Plain Rd.		Alarm/False	Sheffield Rd & Button Ball		MVA/no PI
7/29/2020	2:07 AM	106	8/25/2020	1:37 PM	130

Pinecrest Hill	Alarm/False
8/25/2020 8:05 PM	131
Whites Hill Rd	Medical
8/27/2020 7:20 AM	132
Blunt Rd.	Alarm/False
8/27/2020 11:55 PM	133
Main St.	Alarm/False
8/28/2020 7:56 PM	134
Baldwin Hill E/W	Medical
9/1/2020 8:18 PM	135
Main St	Medical
9/2/2020 9:02 PM	136
Prospect Lake Rd.	MVA
9/6/2020 1:38 PM	137
Main St	MVA
9/7/2020 4:12 PM	138
Undermountain Rd	Alarm/False
9/10/2020 2:43 PM	139
Pine Crest Hill	Alarm/False
9/11/2020 12:13: PM	140
Baldwin Hill N/S	Medical
9/11/2020 1:20 PM	141
Sheffield Rd.	Medical
9/12/2020 10:16 AM	142
Main St.	Alarm/False
9/12/2020 11:54 PM	143
Baldwin Hill E/W	Medical
9/14/2020 11:26 AM	144
Boice Rd.	Service Call
9/15/2020 6:32 AM	145
Sheffield Rd.	Medical
9/17/2020 7:01 PM	146
Undermountain Rd.	Alarm/False
9/19/2020 7:37 AM	147
Main St.	Alarm/False
9/19/2020 12:53 PM	148
Avenue	Medical
9/20/2020 6:55 PM	149
Hillsdale Rd.	Medical
9/21/2020 8:10 AM	150
East St. Mt. Washington	Medical

ECO-TIP

Need a tool for a single job? Consider borrowing rather than buying new. Use NeighborNet to find what you need.

Sustainability Coordinator:

Trash and Recycling Update:

If you are new to Egremont, we ask if you will familiarize yourself with our rules of recycling your trash. There are signs at the Transfer Station in front of the various dumpsters (trash, paper, and bottles and cans) with the complete list of acceptable items. Or go to this the website for the complete list: <http://springfieldmrf.org/>

It is extremely important to follow our recycling rules implicitly, whether you drop off your material at our Transfer Station or hire someone to do it for you. When the rules are not followed and the wrong material is put in the dumpster, we run the risk of having our loads rejected with too much contamination. This is not only costly to the town, it ruins the entire load and all of the good recyclables go into the trash to either be sent to the landfill or be incinerated.

Here is a list of the items which should **NEVER EVER** go into the recycling dumpsters:

Plastic bags

Pots and pans

Pyrex glass

Metal items other than cans (put metal items in the dedicated metal dumpster)

Light bulbs

Ceramics

Hoses or strings of lights

Egremont is a “dual stream” recycling town which means paper products go into one dumpster and clean glass bottles, plastic containers, aluminum and tin cans go into another. Do not put paper of any kind in the bottles and cans dumpster – again it leads to rejected loads and added costs to the town.

Please take the time to learn how to recycle correctly here in Egremont. We take great pride in our high rates of recycling and our low rates of trash per household.

Broadband Network Project:

Fiber Connect and MBI report they are in the final stages of negotiation. On Friday, September 18, FC and MBI each separately informed the Town that they had resolved a number of the open issues in their negotiation of the MBI Grant Award Agreement and that they believe the few remaining issues can be overcome “with a little creativity.” They expect to resume discussions later this week (after the deadline for this article). The Town is not a party to the MBI-FC award agreement, but completion of

this agreement will pave the way for FC to sign the separate agreement with the Town of Egremont. We negotiated and completed the Town-FC agreement last fall; this covers the general requirements of a public procurement along with specifics about coverage area, technology, customer service, pricing, and other terms. Once both agreements are signed, FC can begin filing their utility pole license applications.

Separately, on September 10 FC hosted a Zoom conference for residents of Egremont and Monterey to provide an update on current status and then to answer questions from the participants. About 50 people attended. We thank FC for this helpful presentation.

Town enters discussions with Holyoke Gas & Electric for emergency backup service. As we reported previously, one of the provisions in the Town-FC agreement covers a fallback plan in the event that FC terminates its business in Egremont, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. The goal is to ensure ongoing Internet service with as little interruption as possible. HG&E is a qualified network operator that already works with FC and certain other ISPs to provide some of the behind-the-scenes network services. HG&E submitted a draft proposal to provide backup operation should we ever need it, and we are working through this now.

Town Clerk:

The November 3rd General Election is right around the corner. The following FAQs should answer your general voting questions and about the three ways you can vote - by mail, in-person during Early Voting hours and on Election Day. If you still have questions, please contact Egremont Town Clerk Juliette Haas at either townclerk@egremont-ma.gov or (413) 528-0182 x 11.

When will ballots be available?

Ballots are scheduled to be delivered by the Secretary of State's office no later than October 9th. As soon as they are received here the mailing of ballots to the approximately 500 registered Egremont voters who have already requested to vote by mail will begin.

How do I request a ballot by mail?

If you would like to vote by mail for the

November 3rd Election, please fill out this application, <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Vote-by-Mail-Application.pdf> Sign it, and return back to me. If you have already submitted this application this year you do not need to submit another one.

What's the best way to return my mail-in ballot?

You can either send your ballot back in the postage paid envelope included in the ballot packet, or you can drop it off in one of the two locked drop boxes outside Town Hall.

How do I know if I will receive a ballot by mail?

If you received a ballot by mail for the Primary, chances are you have requested to receive a ballot by mail for the November Election. You can find out whether you have requested a ballot by mail, whether your ballot has been sent, or whether it has been received at this web site: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>

What is the last day to register to vote?

Saturday October 24th. I will be in the office on that day from 6 pm – 8 pm to meet state requirements for registering voters.

What are the dates and hours for In-Person Early Voting at Town Hall:

Saturday October 17 th	9 am – 11 am
Sunday October 18 th	9 am – 11 am
Monday October 19 th	1 pm – 3 pm
Tuesday October 20 th	1 pm – 3 pm
Wed October 21 st	1 pm – 3 pm
Thursday October 22 nd	1 pm – 3 pm
Friday October 23 rd	1 pm – 3 pm
Saturday October 24 th	6 pm – 8 pm
Sunday October 25 th	9 am – 11 am
Monday October 26 th	1 pm – 3 pm
Tuesday October 27 th	1 pm – 3 pm
Wed October 28 th	1 pm – 3 pm
Thursday October 29 th	1 pm – 3 pm
Friday October 30 th	1 pm – 3 pm

What are the polling hours on Election Day?

You can vote in person on Election Day at the Egremont Town Hall from 7 am – 8 pm.

Tax Collector:

Making Payments

Due to the COVID-19, the town hall office is **closed**. Payments can be made any of the following ways: (No Cash Payments)

1. By Check – mailed to PO Box 368 South

Egremont, MA 01258

2. Drop your check and bill stub in an envelope in the secure black lock box located at either end of the town hall
3. Use our Online Bill Pay on the town website www.egremont-ma.gov (When paying online, the ability to make a partial payment can be made at the very end of the online payment process.)

The online bill payment process is available through the 'online' link on the town website.

<http://www.egremont-ma.gov/taxcoll.html#pay>. The online payment process offers many new improvements for obtaining all of your billing information. You can view past or present bills, payment history, print reports for IRS income tax filing and make payments. Bills can be found by entering your last name, a space, and the first letter of your first name or change the search criteria to the property address.

Water Department:

The Department makes constant efforts to discover and repair leaks; replacement of older service lines continues. The Water Department saves process time (and money) by treating less water as a result of these efforts. As our system ages, the transponders that allow remote meter readings are coming to the end of their battery life. The Water Department will be contacting those customers whose transponders need to be replaced. All appropriate safety precautions are followed. As the colder weather sets in, remember to check outside hose faucets! If the spigot is not frost proof, it should be drained to avoid freezing.

Did you know that a dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day? A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day. These leaks waste your water and your money.

Toilet Leaks are hard to detect. They are usually caused by a bad main valve, flapper valve seat, a bad flush valve, an improperly positioned float arm,

or a defective overflow tube. Test your toilets by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the water in the tank. DO NOT FLUSH! Wait for 15 to 20 minutes. If color appears in the bowl, then you have a leak and repairs need to be made.

Faucet Leaks are easy to find. If it drips, or worse, continues running after you shut it off, it needs to be fixed. If the dripping water is warm, it is costing you extra money! Water dripping or running from the shower head when the shower is turned off firmly, it is usually caused by bad washers or seats which need replacing. Also, check for leaks from the tub faucet when the shower is turned on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low-flow shower head because the water you save with the low-flow device is lost from the tub faucet.

If you have any questions about water supply or billing, the Water Department Clerk is available at Town Hall Monday - Friday from 7 to 3; telephone 528-0182 ext 17.

Meeting Schedule:

Meeting regularly. Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

(During the COVID19 Pandemic most meetings are taking place via Zoom. Please check the town's web page, www.egremont-ma.gov, for meeting postings.)

*Archives Room - First Saturday 9-noon
or by appointment*

Historical Commission - first Wednesday at 4pm

Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon & by appointment

Council on Aging - Meetings as posted. Administrative Assistant is at Town Hall Thursday 9am to 12noon.

Board of Health - Monday-Thursday 7am to 12noon.

Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am

Selectboard - Generally meetings every other Tuesday evenings 6pm. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm. Other times and inspections by appointment

Cemetery Commission - first Friday of every month at 8am.

Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth Thursdays 5:30pm

Finance Committee - January through April. Other times as needed.

Library - Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474

Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting dates.

School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm Mt. Everett High School Library

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm or by appointment

Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to 1pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm, Sunday 12noon to 4pm

Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

To reach a board member or to leave a message please call the Town Hall 528-0182.

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Support local businesses:

Prospect Lake Park and Campground - camping, swimming

413-528-4158 prospectlk@aol.com

www.prospectlakepark.com

Egremont residents receive a discount to access the beach.

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882

www.innsweetwater.com

*John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469*

*Swiss Hutte Country Inn and Restaurant-
Restaurant & Lodging
413-528-6200*

www.swisshutte.com

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.

Robin Walther

116 Egremont Plain Road

413-528-2537

robinschaircaning@gmail.com

*Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal polishing
413-528-3230*

*41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and decorative objects.
413-528-0112*

www.41mainantiques.com

*Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Lessons, summer programs*

www.bluerider.org

413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -

Horse Boarding, lessons, judging, farm programs

413-528-2367 arabpinto13@yahoo.com

*Indian Line Farm - Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
& Farmers Markets*

413-528-8301

www.indianlinefarm.com

Ivory Pond Farm -

*Llamas, Yarn and Woolens. Dancing Crane Rug Hooking
Studio. Hooked rugs, lessons and supplies.*

Tom & Liz Marino

413-528-9465

www.lizmarinorughooking.com
Llamama@wildblue.net

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,
 open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.
 Syrup and Honey
 413-528-5710

Skip DelVaglio – Old Drone Apiary at Frog Cottage
 (Local Honey)
 1257 Sheffield – Egremont Road
 413 528-2308

Frog Cottage Goodies: Phyllis & Cynthia
 Pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, fruitcakes, cheesecakes
 1257 Sheffield/Egremont Road
 Great Barrington MA 01230
 413-528-2308

Elfi Six Shiatsu/Acutonics®, Bodywork
 413-717-0507
www.CosmicResonance.com

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
 44 Main Street, South Egremont
 413-528-9654
healingspiritdc@yahoo.com

Zorn Core Fitness -
 Personal, Couples & Group Training
 Cardio Room - \$25 @ month Free 1 month cardio for
 Egremont residents zornari@gmail.com
 46 Main Street, South Egremont
 413-528-1594 www.zorncorefitness.com
 Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe
 Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga
 46 Main Street, South Egremont
 413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com

Amelia's Holistic Facial Rejuvenation
 Combined with Reiki Level II and Cranial Sacral Release
 A licensed Aesthetician.
 "Look and feel as though you just enjoyed a two-week
 vacation...without the jet lag. 518.320.8314
AmeliasHolisticFacials@gmail.com

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine, liquor,
 newspapers, lottery, & much more
 413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
 413-528-9633

Berkshire Veneer Company - wholesale/retail
 wood veneer sales
 413-644-9696

Steve Agar - driving services
 Ride to the airport, train, etc
 413-854-7269

Lord St. Pierre - General Contractor
 Home renovations, maintenance and monitoring
 413-522-3671
llstpierre@yahoo.com

"Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services
 Jack Buckley
 413-528-1982
 413-446-1982

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking Field
 Mowing
 413-528-0102 413-717-2443

Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance to
 construction clean-up, ironing, polishing, organizing,
 window washing with free screen cleaning.
 413-854-7417 bonbonz75@yahoo.com

*Workingdesign**Architecture and Landscape Design**15 Sheffield Rd, So. Egremont**Robert Fakelmann, AIA and Alexis Wreden**318-436-9657 or 318-548-2238**rjf@latech.edu or awreden@gmail.com**www.workingdesign.info**No project too small!**Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course**413-528-1262**www.catamountski.com**Peter Goldberg, Realtor**Residential, Commercial, Land**Stone House Realty**35 Railroad Street, Great Barrington**413-281-6384m 413-528-4211o**Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales**William Pitt Sotheby's**413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920**anitaschilling@gmail.com**Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel & Accessories**39 Main Street**413-528-2330 www.kenverltd.com**Maple Leaf Art Gallery - Joan Mentzinger**154 Hillsdale Road, Route 23**413-528-8818**www.joanmentzinger.com**Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall**PC repairs - Networking - Internet**413-854-8660**Matthew.wall@yahoo.com**Dellea.biz Computer Services offers affordable on-site Windows computer help and technical support as well**as remote PC tune-ups. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141**Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts with nature. Eric F. Ives**Mass Problem Animal Control Agent**Consultation/Inspection, Capture, removal and exclusionary work.**413-528-9813 413-250-5094**Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop and quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont**413-528-0445 www.brooksidequiltworks.com**Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much more**Sue Delmolino Ives**413-644-0229 susandelmolino@yahoo.com**Stitched by JessaLu - Jessica Meyer**Handmade bags for your "Stuff"!**www.stitchedbyjesselu.com**Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford**berkshiresewn@gmail.com**413-528-3040**Gregory Cherin Photography, South Egremont**1-917-991-0553 info@gregorycherin.com**www.gregorycherin.com**Berkshire Band Instrument Co. - Kevin S. Wheeler**185 Route 71, Egremont MA 01230**413-528-4955**Hillsdale Healthcare**Primary health care. Accepting most MA, NY and CT insurance. DOT certified.**518-325-2273**Berkshire Veterinary Acupuncture, LLC -**alternate veterinary therapies for your pet including acupuncture, spinal manipulation, food and herbal*

therapies. In-home or in-office by appointment.

413-528-1312

bvamobilevet@gmail.com

www.berkshireveterinaryacupuncture.com

Berkshire South Regional Community Center

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA

413-528-2810 www.berkshiresouth.org

Non-profit community organization serving 17 towns throughout the Southern Berkshires. Providing a variety of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood to senior citizens - and partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm

Business law & litigation

40 Main Street

413-528-2698 www.gogel-gogel.com

House To House Hauling & Recycling

413-528-0943

Trash hauling services and roll-off containers services.

Jana Laiz: Local Author www.crowfliespress.com

413-528-0943 www.janalaiz.com

Erika Ludwig Founder/Teacher

Berkshire Strings -

Instruction & Inspiration

erika@berkshirestrings.com

www.berkshirestrings.com

www.fiddlingfemmes.com

<https://berkshirestrings.youcanbook.me/>

413-528-5739

Aston Magna Music Festival

Saturday evenings at the new Saint James Place in

Great Barrington, mid-June to mid-July.

www.astonmagna.org

Susan Obel, Executive Director

Dwelling in the Past:

Lynn H. Wood, historic land records research

dwelling.LHW@gmail.com

Elisabeth L. Wood, historic and genealogical research

dwelling.ELW@gmail.com

www.dwellinginthepast.com

Offering the opportunity to find out the history of your home, and learn how its former occupants contributed in shaping the community we live in today. The local research team has extensive knowledge of the archival tools available, and combines that with years of experience in using those resources for bringing the past back into the light.

P.O. Box 558 South Egremont MA 01258

413-528-3919

Call for a complimentary consultation.

Town of Egremont

P.O. Box 368

South Egremont MA 01258

413-528-0182

www.egremont-ma.gov

tegrement@egremont-ma.gov

Printed, on recycled paper, by the Selectmen's Office Staff as submitted by Town Departments.

"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity provider and employer."



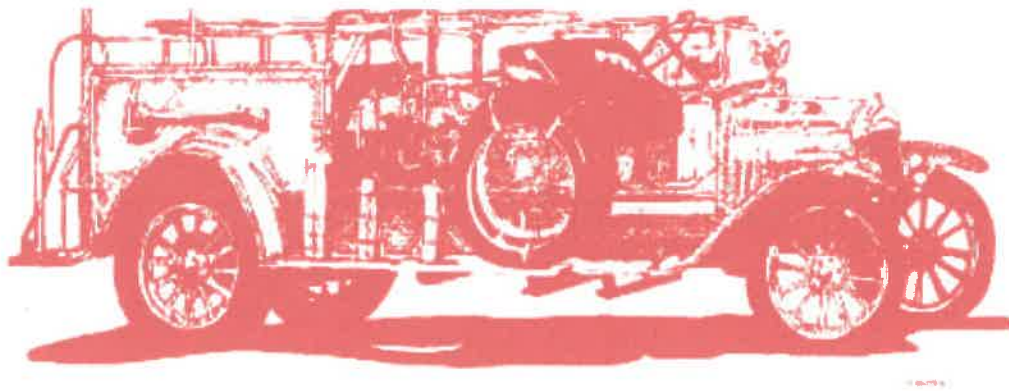
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245TH BIRTHDAY
PURCHASE THE EGREMONT T-SHIRT

Vintage Black, Multiple Sizes

***50% of Sales Donated to Egremont's
250th Birthday Fund***

Details here: egremont-ma.gov/egrbday.html

***Purchase here:
bit.ly/EgremontTshirt***



**Egremont
Vol. Fire Dept.
Annual
Steak Dinner**

TAKE OUT ONLY

14 oz. Strip Steak
Potato
Garlic Bread

Mixed Salad
Hot Fudge Sundae
Soda

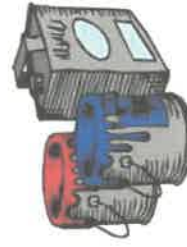
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

South Egremont Fire House
Route 23 & 41, South Egremont, MA

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



For Residents of:

Alford Becket Egremont Great Barrington Lee Lenox Monterey Mount Washington New Marlborough
Otis Richmond Sandisfield Sheffield Stockbridge Tyringham Washington West Stockbridge

When: Saturday, October 24: 9 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Great Barrington Recycling Center
601 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington

What to Bring

<u>From The Yard/Garden</u>	<u>From The Workbench</u>	<u>From The House</u>	<u>From The Garage</u>	<u>Mercury Products:</u>
Pesticides, Fungicides	Rust Proofers	Drain Cleaners	Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene	Thermometers
Herbicides	Wood Preservatives	Oven Cleaners	Brake & Transmission Fluids	Thermostats
Insect Sprays	Wood Strippers & Stains	Floor Cleaners	Car Wax, Polish	Other mercury
Rodent Killers	Paint Thinners	Metal Polish	Engine Degreaser/Motor Oil	Button Batteries
Muriatic Acid	Lead & Oil-Based Paint	Arts & Crafts Supplies	Swimming Pool Chemicals	
Flea Powder	Varnish	Photo Chemicals	Driveway Sealer	
No-Pest Strips	Full Aerosol Cans	Chemistry Kits	Antifreeze	
Chemical Fertilizers	Sealants	Rechargeable Batteries	Car-Lead Acid Batteries	
Lighter Fluid	Adhesives			
Moth Balls	Solvents			

Pre-Registration is required to avoid long delays. Please pre-register online at tritownhealth.org. Call 243-5540

DO NOT BRING

Latex Paint, Medical Wastes, Asbestos, Fireworks & Explosives, Ammunition, Construction Debris, Gas or Propane Cylinders, Smoke Detectors, Radioactive Material, Fire Extinguishers, Fluorescent Lamps, Electronics, PCB's, Medications, Medical Sharps